question himself. But he found one serious difficulty and that was if you or any other honorary registrar of births and deaths defaulted or committed some error, there is no provision of law by which he can inflict punishment upon you, and there the matter rests. The question will be looked into again and if we can possibly without violating the law give effect to it the matter will receive careful consideration and if necessary I shall consider the question of meeting the point raised by the Land Revenue Commissioner and investing him with the power to deal suitably with such Registrars of Births and Deaths and managers.

35. Appointment of an Honorary Magistrate at Mundakayam under the Rubber Thefts Prevention Regulation, IX of 1087.

MR. S. N. URE (*Member, Mundakayam Planters' Association*) said that the subject of the appointment of an Honoray Magistrate for Mundakayam had already been considered by Government and that the Association had put foward the names of Messers. Harley and M'clean to the Commissioner, Devicolam.

With the fall in the price of rubber, there was little incentive to stealing but as prices were rising again the temptation was likely to grow stronger. The Association therefore requested Government to appoint an Honorary Magistrate for the Mundakayam District.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Ure, this question of appointing a Magistrate or a Bench of Honorary Magistrates to deal specifically with offences under the Rubber Thefts Prevention Regulation is one which is at the present moment, and has been for some time past, engaging the attention of Government. There are one or two little difficulties in the way, and one is that a Bench of Magistrate can be created only in accordance with the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code. Now, if you make a Magistrate under the Criminal Procedure Code, he will have no powers to conduct investigations, or make searches, or arrests, under the Rubber Thefts Prevention Regulation because the Criminal Procedure Code does not envisage that particular Regulation. That is one difficulty in the way. Our Law Officers are examining the question with a view to see whether there is some way by which this difficulty can be overcome, and you may expect a decision from the Government within two or three months.

36. Suggestions for the development of agriculture.

Mr. CHACKO JOHN (*Member, Kottayam taluk, Group 1*) said that Travancore was first and foremost an agricultural country, but the economic condition of the people was very poor. Most of them were heavily involved in debts. They could hardly afford to find capital for the development of agriculture by the use of scientific manures or modern implements. Nor had the Agricultural Department succeeded in bringing home to the people the usefulness of scientific manures or the need for adopting modern methods of agriculture. Intensive propaganda work was what was most required in this matter on the part of the department. They should open model farms in all rural areas, where the products flourishing in each locality should be cultivated on scientific

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly